# News release

## Transit of Venus seen from the UK

4 June 2004

Venus will transit across the face of the Sun between around 06:19 and 12:23 on Tuesday 8 June 2004. This is the first time since 1882 that this event has occurred, and Met Office forecasters are saying that the weather looks set to give most watchers a reasonable chance of seeing the dark speck move across the Sun's disc.

*Image courtesy NASA*

The transit in 1769 inspired Capt James Cook's expedition to the southern oceans to watch the event, and the next ones in the UK will be in 2012 at around 5am, followed by a 105-year wait for the next!

Although cloud amounts are expected to increase from the west, most watchers should at least get a glimpse of this intriguing event, with the best chance of a good view in the east and south-east of England early on Tuesday.

Watchers should beware however - never look directly at the Sun, especially with a telescope or binoculars! One safe way to observe the transit is by projection, that is using a telescope to project the image onto a card in shadow.

See the latest UK weather forecast

**For further information:**
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